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EDITORIAL

Martin Luther King was a man with a dream. He dreamed that all men would receive equal opportunity to excel, regardless of their race or creed. He dreamed that all races could live together in peace and harmony. He dreamed that men would be judged according to their abilities, not according to their colour. King's dream did not die with his assassination twenty years ago. It lived on, intensifying with each passing day. But twenty years later, King's dream has been transformed, becoming so distorted that, if he were alive, it is doubtful he himself would recognize it. People who feel guilty about injuries incurred by blacks a mere twenty years ago are trying to make amends in the only way they can: with self-righteous crusading. In fact, these greedy people are helping no one but themselves; they do not care about the black people they seem to want to help. They only want "redemption." Ha. It appears that racism has taken on a new face, but its personality remains the same.

The job of head coach of a professional baseball or football team is an exclusive one, limited to fifty able and experienced men. Because front-office segregation ended only in the early seventies, blacks have only been involved in the coaching aspect of professional sport for about fifteen years. At the moment, there are more white men with sufficient experience to coach a professional team than black men. Therefore, most head coaching spots are filled by white men. But to jump to the conclusion that there exists collusion among the owners to prevent a black man from reaching such a prestigious post is both offensive and ridiculous. The best man will invariably get the job, for the bottom line in any organization is to win. An organization will hire a man who can best lead the team to victory, and they will hire him according to his experience and ability, not according to the colour of his skin. Frank Robinson, who has been involved in baseball for more than thirty years, recently became manager of the Baltimore Orioles.

He is as qualified for the job as any other man, and was hired because of his qualifications. Though the Oriole Club was subjected to a flood of media attention—any publicity, controversial or not, is a benefit to a sports team—his success will be based on but one statistic: the numbers in his team's win-loss column (which, at date of publication, stands at 0-15). Despite the record, as far as I am concerned the best man won the job. The comments of the ignorant Al Campanis and the idiotic Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder were tainted with unfortunate personal slurs, but they realized that the public desire for self-proclaimed "equality" and the owners' subsequent desire to please the paying public will culminate in an unfortunate end: one team, riding the crest of an "equal opportunity" wave, will attempt to thrust itself into the spotlight by hiring a black coach who does not have sufficient experience. His inevitable failure will place doubt in the mind of cynics who look to say "I told you so," creating a new slew of racial stereotypes.

Many people do not respect black celebrities for their actual ability, but for their ability to succeed even though they are black, as though they consider this a disadvantage. Debi Thomas is not a great skater, but a great black skater in the words of Peggy Fleming, cheery racist. Jesse Jackson is a black presidential candidate, but Michael Dukakis is not a white presidential candidate. Saying that Arthur Ashe is the greatest black tennis player who ever lived is an example of the racism that would have made Dr. King squirm. Did black players play in a league by themselves? If not, then why should Ashe be recognized as though he did? Don't people realize that the term "greatest" becomes insulting when it implies you're but the best of an "inferior" subset?

Reversed discrimination, or racism practised against whites, is spreading slowly throughout the land. Granted, the term is heavy handed, but the basic premise of racism exists: the principles of equal

opportunity are ignored. At a football camp I attended last summer, certain coaches would consider recruiting only black kids, presumably because these coaches possessed a preconceived idea that blacks are better athletes than whites. This is as crude a stereotype as Campanis' remark that "blacks can't swim." One white player displayed outstanding skills, but was overlooked. The coach awarded the scholarship in question to a black athlete whose talents were obviously inferior. The best man didn't win. Negro Scholarship Funds are an equally good example of reversed discrimination. Can you imagine the outrage that would ensue were a White College Fund begun? Many Fund activists claim that blacks are "poorer" and "less educated" and should therefore be given a chance to learn. Such stereotypes are especially offensive with no statistical backing. If someone were to publish a report stating that, say, 2% of all scholarships awarded were awarded to blacks, but many more than 2% of eligible candidates who needed financial aid were black, this would justify setting up a Negro Scholarship Fund, and would necessitate a closer look at the system. In many "crusader" articles I've read, the author never justifies his belief with such a report. He merely cites racial stereotypes. And everyone says, 'I think what they're doing is wonderful!' What a bunch of bull! Why do they think it's wonderful? Because supporting such a "worthy" cause helps them forget their wrongdoings. Show me a report that deserving blacks are consistently ignored by schools offering scholarships, and I'll support your cause. I cannot support racist activities.

In this decade of great technological advancement, it seems incredible that people are still so ignorant. [Some suggest that the more advanced we become, the more ignorant we become.] Talking about racism is the taboo of the '80's. Anyone who speaks out against the irresponsible manner in which black men and women are being portrayed by the deaf, dumb, and blind crusaders is immediately cate-

gorized a "racist." People refuse to listen to any valid points raised on the subject, especially when the finger is pointed at them. No dilemma can be solved without debate, and debate exposes the true emotions of all parties involved. The only way to put this bloody subject to rest once and for all is to talk about it, to debate it, so that everyone may hear all sides of the issue, and draw his own conclusion. Hopefully, each person will draw a rational conclusion—the only rational conclusion.

ESSAYS

Annually the Quebec Association of English Schools (QAIS) sponsors an essay competition. Last year, Selwyn students Josh Gradinger and Doug Naudie finished first and second in the Senior Division of the competition. Once again this year our school has fine representation in the contest: Prosanto Chaudhury and Serge Mostowy in the Junior Division, and Jared Tobman and Carl Brabander in the Senior. We will publish all four—two in this issue and two in the year's final edition—as examples both of good writing and of how well these students were able to work with the uninspiring topics such competitions invariably present.

Man's Effect on his Environment

Does it annoy you when yet another Greenpeace activist approaches you for a donation? Do you change the channel on the television when a politician speaks out about acid rain or nuclear disarmament? It's easy to turn your back on these issues, isn't it? You probably tell yourself that your little bit won't make any difference, and that these issues don't really affect you enough for you to bother with them:

that's someone else's job, right? Wrong.

This is an age of mass production and industry. The population of the world has more than doubled twice in the past century. An airplane takes off somewhere in the world once every two seconds. The rain forest of Brazil (which provides an estimated one-third of the world's oxygen) is being torn down for development and industry at a rate of five thousand acres per day. Under one percent of the earth's forests are protected by governments against development and private enterprise. These forests, besides providing us with oxygen, are the home of almost every known species of animal, and are thought to hold tremendous scientific and medical possibilities in their unexplored resources. And the list goes on and on and on...but I guess you've heard it all before, even if you don't remember hearing some of it.

The issue of the state of the world's environment is one which doesn't affect people the way some things do; a football game, a news item about an axe murderer, or a few dollar bills waved in front of most people's faces will get them out of their chairs, but another plea for support of a good cause just doesn't get the same reaction. It doesn't offer the excitement of destruction or the hypnotic lure of untold riches nor any other short-lived satisfaction that may be available from tearing down forests or developing it, or maybe from annihilating another race in the war, the supporting environmental organizations is essential. It is unfortunate that so many people don't realize their importance. Why? Is it because of modern fast paced life that nobody has a chance to think about things like the environment? Are causes like Greenpeace not aggressive enough? Are people just lazy? All these possibilities probably are true to some extent, especially the last one.

"Okay, okay," you say, "What do you want me to do now?" For starters, get rid of all aerosol cans in your house (room deodorizers, deodorant, polish, etc.) because the gas in these cans eats away at the

ozone layer in our atmosphere. There is a hole already in the layer just above the North Pole that is believed to be caused in part by the extensive use of aerosol cans. The ozone layer protects us from the dangerous ultra-violet rays of the sun. Another thing you can do is switch (if you haven't already) to electric heating. The burning of fossil fuels to heat homes puts pollutants into the air which cause disease and acid rain. An electric system, in addition to being less expensive to use, poses no threat to the environment (except in countries such as the Dominican Republic which burns diesel fuel to generate their electricity). There are a lot of other things you can do, which, especially if you start a trend in your neighbourhood, could do a lot of good.

This is an age in which we, as humans, can no longer afford to use up natural resources as if they were inexhaustible and free of consequence. Nothing is free, but we have been able to put the costs of our recklessness on credit for awhile. Only now are we being billed by the big credit union called the environment. If we don't start repaying this outstanding bill, the environment will go bankrupt on us, and then where will we be? Maybe we, as human beings, should take an example from the Haida Indians, who believe that we do not inherit the land from our ancestors, but rather borrow it from our children. In order for us to realize the importance of our concern for the environment, we must be truly aware of the threats we pose to our environment and the importance of maintaining nature's delicate balance. We, as human beings, and the only inhabitants of this planet who have the ability to do anything about anything, must start not only to be aware of the problems that exist, but actually to do something about them before they get worse. We must get up out of our lazy chairs and do something about our situation...now!

Carl Brabander

Hippocratic Hypocrites

The Hippocratic oath, written in the 1800's and named after Hippocrates, the founder of modern medicine, gave the medical profession a sense of obligation to mankind. Most medical students graduating today take the oath, as have the majority of today's practicing physicians. Included in the oath is the following promise: "I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; furthermore, I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion."¹ The heavy-handed phrasing of the latter half of this promise implies the obvious: that a doctor will neither provide a woman with the instrument to perform an abortion, nor will he himself perform it. Likewise, euthanasia is clearly condemned. Why then, are doctors regularly performing abortions and practicing euthanasia, defying the solemn oath they have sworn?

Abortion is a highly controversial issue that cannot be debated without presenting the views of both sides. The questions "Whose right is it to terminate the life of a living organism?" and "When is the fetus considered human, making abortion an act of murder?" are arguable but unanswerable. Doctors who perform abortions today are not only persons of great responsibility who have irresponsibly chosen to disregard the implications of their actions; they are hypocrites who refuse to abide by their oath. Henry Morgentaler, a notorious doctor who has been performing abortions for twenty years, dismisses his hypocrisy in claiming that society must adjust its values to "changing times," and that his clinic responds to the recent trend of women wanting to "liberate their bodies." How can one man take it upon himself to question a belief that is as old as Christianity itself? Can the rapist claim his actions are justifiable because they respond to "changing times"?

The anti-abortion law that was passed in 1968 was probably considered unconstitutional by those

who authorized it, but they realized that without such a law, irresponsible women might become sexually promiscuous knowing that there would always be a simple, if costly, solution to the problem of pregnancy. Immoral doctors would reap the financial benefits of a "liberated" womankind. Dr. Morgentaler has been tried and acquitted five times, and on Thursday, January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada abolished the abortion law, arguing that "forcing a woman to carry a fetus to term is a 'profound interference with a woman's body and thus an infringement of security of the person.'"² A pregnant woman may have an abortion now in any Canadian hospital, and the cost of the operation will be defrayed to Medicare. The government will pay the doctor \$100.30 for services rendered. There is but one restraining stipulation: that the attending physician must be confident that the health of the woman is not endangered. It is incredible that so monumental a decision will be made by a money-hungry doctor who, by performing the act of abortion, ignores both the moral issue and the oath he has taken. If money is corrupt, abortion-performing doctors are truly hypocrites. For the oath further states, "...I will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption."

Equally hypocritical are those doctors who practice euthanasia. Although noble in theory, euthanasia in practice is nothing more than premeditated murder. Doctors know neither when life as we understand it begins, nor when it ends. The Hippocratic oath was meant to prevent doctors from interpreting "life" by forbidding them to abort a fetus or to take the life of a living human being, no matter how terminally ill. Does anyone know what it is like to be in a coma that the medical profession deems irreversible? Physical unresponsiveness, even absence of cranial activity, does not indicate spiritual death. It is entirely possible that a person remains alive spiritually, content and unsuffering, until the heart stops beating. Most interpretations are com-

pletely theoretical; without concrete evidence, none can be deemed unreasonable. Responsive patients who beg to be murdered—the glorified term is mercy-killing—have no way of knowing if the cure will be found tomorrow for today's "incurable" disease.

Any doctor who performs abortions or practices euthanasia should be forced by the medical world to revoke his oath, and to suffer the consequent embarrassment. This will create two levels of physicians: those who keep their oath will be considered morally ethical, and will attract more patients than the unethical doctors who revoke their oath. Doctors cannot adjust their practices to the whims of the day. They cannot place monetary gains ahead of the welfare of their patients. They cannot continue to practice this hypocrisy.

Jared Tobman

1. *World Book Encyclopaedia*, Volume 9, 1980.

2. *The Montreal Gazette*. Friday, January 29, 1988.

A Portrait of an Idiot as a Young Woman

Nightmares of an Introduction to Technology class flash before me as I pass through the door into the world of Avenue Video. The walls are lined with the signs and symbols of contemporary genius: Sony, Panasonic, Mitsubishi, Mutsumi Takahashi. The VCR always seems to be playing the great works of our time: Ernest's Crazy, Wild, Unforgettable Weekend or Johnny B. Goode Visits the Dude Ranch.

There she sits, behind the counter. The smell of hair spray fills the room. Her stone-washed Roberto's, along with her fluorescent socks, her Corey Hart tour shirt, and her carefully blended makeup constitute a beautiful woman, right out of a Miami Sound Machine video.

Propped up on a cushioned chair, like Marie

Antoinette on her throne, she does her nails with the skill and craftsmanship of a Swiss Clockmaker. Hardly bothered by my appearance at the cash, she continues to describe her "most embarrassing morning at Alexis Nihon" to Kid Video on line one.

Trying to get her to serve you before she's ready is like telling a sloth to hurry. She'll sit there, absorb gossip for another 30 seconds, and then turn to me, dumbfounded and angry, as if I'm wasting her time!

"Could you please tell me where I could find a Woody Allen movie?" I ask hopelessly.

"Who me?" she utters, still not fully paying attention to me and annoyed that anyone would have the gall to ask her anything.

Once again I try: "What about Star Wars?"

"Is that a trick question?"

"Dirty Dancing, where is it?!" I scream, desperately.

"Listen, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE RUDE, YOU CAN JUST LEAVE!"

I'm surprised she hadn't heard of Dirty Dancing; she seems to love the soundtrack. People tell me that soap opera characters are purely fictional, that no one has all day to complain about how her high heel shoes don't fit, or how her eye makeup fails to match her clothes, or how hair spray is less effective in hot weather.

As a wise poet said, "If you mushed all the Avenue Video girls' brains together, their collective IQ would be comparable to that of a pastel colored Roots jacket." Where do they get these girls, and why do they pay them salaries to do a job that you could train a stupid poodle to do? The only refuge for a village idiot such as this is in the technocratic world of Avenue Video.

Warren Valdmanis

Back to Nature

Humanity is a part of nature but has through its evolution become estranged from the earth. He has been able to put clever barriers between himself and reality. Sidewalks, roads and houses do this in a literal way. Man has, however, put subtler, more ingenious barriers between himself and reality. The ancient apparatus of slavery, the medieval institution of serfdom and the modern city-country split are all ways man has ostracized himself from the company of mother nature. Slavery and serfdom kept large portions of the population on the land. The modern capitalistic system with the help of industrialization has "freed" the majority of the population to work in man's only creation made without nature's help, the city. With signs of "Welcome sons of nature to the glamorous, glitzy world of smog, crime, plastic reality and cynicism" the snakes of the modern world convinced the masses to bite deeply into the carefully waxed apple of civilization. How then can those individuals who wish to feel reality, break down the barriers and return to a simple life?

We must begin answering this question by assessing the historical circumstances of the barriers' erection. We can ignore serfdom and slavery as they belong to a different era and were inefficient in the numbers of people they kept from reality. Industrialization and the society it brought with it must bear the brunt of our scrutiny. Coming out of the middle Ages the modern world still had none of the machinery of industrialization but they were able to progress in population, culture and knowledge. This process was possible because the non-industrial farming of the time was efficient enough to support a

fairly large non-farming population. These people could not justify their position by saying they were responsible for the finance and commerce of the farmers. This argument could not have stood up to a concentrated attack because commerce and finance can both be transacted by farmers on their off days. Market places are living testimony to this possibility. The farmers were not organized or smart enough to realize the ascendancy of parasites and continued to be taken in by the representatives of the future. The industrial Revolution added soundness to the new society's argument for a parasitical society. Workers were needed produce everything from cloth to tractors. These items were soon looked upon as necessities and we progressed to where we are now: industrialization is regarded as a necessity and non-industrial countries are been branded as under developed.

The question now arises: where did we go wrong? Commerce and finance are not in themselves evil. They have existed time out of mind and have proved beneficial to humanity. The finger must be pointed at industrialization. It is obviously unnecessary: we lived tens of thousands of years without it. Its veneer perforated it is undesirable. IT brings with it class warfare, poverty, war and disharmony. It uses commerce and finance to spread its false gospel and ensnare millions. We went wrong when we began to industrialize.

The return to nature must by definition destroy industrialism. Industrialism is the sole occupation of man that requires people to become out of touch with nature. Industrialism is a difficult master. He requires his servants to work only for him. There is no such thing as a part time factory worker. A farmer cannot work in a factory to build himself a tractor and then leave as he once did with commerce,

finance, law, and politics. Instead millions of workers must slave to create unneeded goods. The farmer could allocate these other pursuits without throwing up barriers between himself and nature. Market days, voting days, legal outings and financial transactions could all be accomplished along with growing, weeding and reaping. The return to nature means the return to the exact point in time before industrialization and using the most advanced pre-industrial technique to work the land. The surplus created would not go to keeping a parasitical city in existence. Instead people could work less and have more leisure time for cultural, philosophical, and intellectual pursuits. Instead of having sixty per cent of the population not working the land, each

person could have sixty per cent leisure time. Each person would become a microcosm of society instead of being caught in a ridiculous extreme with nothing to counterbalance it. All that needs to be done is to renounce industrialism.

Nature: harmony, peace, tranquility. Industrialism: war on a huge scale, polarization, discord. We have gone astray. Our sight is clouded by smog. Smog is a word that has an inner meaning: it is formed from smoke and fog. Smoke is industry. Fog is nature. Now they are mixed. If we do not get back on the right path through the woods, but stay on the iron girders that support the locomotive of industry, we will come out of the woods and find ourselves in a grey mist. Not fog. Not smog. Pure smoke.

David Price

REVIEW

No, this year's Selwyn House Senior Player's performance wasn't Shakespeare but it was indeed sensational. With an overall turnout of over 600 people (despite the NHL playoffs!), The Caine Mu-

tiny Court Martial was a huge success. The story (for those who did not see the play) takes place in a San Francisco courtroom in 1945. A young lieutenant stands trial for having taken command of a ship (The



Caine) in the Pacific Ocean during a typhoon. His brilliant defense lawyer, however, manages to get him an acquittal by proving the ship's captain's insanity.

From the opening scene one could see that it lived up to what Dr. Harker had mentioned a week before--that it would be an outstanding production. The acting was truly excellent--the star of the show being Jared Tobman as Lt. Barney Greewald, the defense lawyer. The play had just the right mixture of humour and seriousness--there was something in it for everyone. From the professionally played Lt. Com. John Challee (Doug Naudie) and well acted Lt. Com. P.F. Queeg (Blake Ferger) to the humorous Dr. Bird (Myles Hainsworth)--every single actor did his best, and this fact was clearly visible. Not to be

omitted, of course, are the accused Lt. Stephen Maryk (Robbie Johnston), the judge, Capt. Blakely (Matthew Stevenson)--or any other of the thirteen castmembers!

News about the play apparently spread like wildfire, as could be determined from the turnout. From just under one hundred people on Thursday night, the numbers grew to 250 and about 300--with people standing in the back--on Friday and Saturday nights respectively.

All in all, this year's production was an extraordinary success, especially for a school play! Everyone who worked at it in any way deserves a holiday in Hawaii (Mrs. Ferguson invites)--or at least a hearty congratulation.

Alex von Veh

David Winn





CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

a baseball glove for a 10-12 year old \$20

Barron's SAT preparation book \$5

Fisher turntable MT-30 one year old
—seldom used \$100

See Alex von Veh, 11B

NINTENDO GAMES (ALL WITH BOXES AND INSTRUCTIONS)

Mike Tyson's Punch-Out	\$45
Duck Hunt	\$30
Top Gun	\$40
Double Dribble	\$40
Castlevania	\$45
Stinger	\$35
Tiger Heli	\$40
3-D World Runner	\$40
Commando	\$35
Wizards and Warriors	\$45

See MARK RUSKO, 9C

WANTED

Invitations to play golf at any Montreal area course.

A cheap second-hand car in good condition.
No rust, 5-speed desired.

See Mr. G. Dowd anytime!

PUZZLE

A Biblical Puzzle

In this remarkable paragraph are hidden the names of fifteen books of the Bible. It's a real lulu; kept me looking so hard for the facts, I missed the revelations. I was in a jam, especially since the names were not capitalized. The truth will come to numbers of you. To others it will be a real job, but for all it will be a most fascinating search. Yes, there will be some easy to spot and others hard to judge, so admit it usually results in loud lamentations. One lady says she brews coffee while she puzzles over it.

